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Vermont Recognized Nationally for Student AP Exam Scores

MONTPELIER – The College Board released its fifth annual *AP Report to the Nation* today, and highlighted Vermont as a national example in preparing students for college. Vermont saw the largest five-year increase in the country in the percentage of its student population scoring 3 or higher on at least one AP (Advanced Placement) exam in high school.

“Vermont is leading the nation in getting its students college ready for the second year in a row,” said Michael Bartini, Regional Vice President for the College Board. “Kids are thinking about college, and behind that are the teachers and administrators who deserve credit for the work they have done to provide these opportunities.”

The AP exam is a measure of a student’s content mastery of college-level studies in specific academic disciplines. According to College Board, an exam grade of 3 or higher is a strong predictor of a student’s ability to succeed in college and earn a bachelor’s degree. In Vermont, 19.8 percent of the public high school class of 2008 earned a 3 or higher on one or more AP exams during high school. This compares to 15.2 percent of the nation.

The number of Vermont students taking the AP exam is increasing. In 2008, 2,056 students (or 29 percent) from Vermont’s public high schools took at least one AP exam during high school compared to 1,915 in 2007 and 1,377 in 2003. In 2008, 1,406 students earned a 3 or higher on at least one AP exam compared to 1,313 in 2007 and 961 in the class of 2003.

“What the results tell us is that more and more Vermont students are challenging themselves to college-level coursework in our schools,” said Commissioner Armando Vilaseca. “And even better, more and more are meeting that challenge.”

College Board also reported an increase in the number of low-income Vermont students taking AP exams. Nearly eight percent, or 160, of Vermont’s low-income students took the AP exam, with 92 earning a 3 or higher.

To view the complete national report, as well as Vermont’s results, visit http://www.collegeboard.com/press/releases/releases_main.html.

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